

# LESSON PLAN: “FIRSTGOV FOR KIDS”



**GRADES: 5–9**

**TIME: 1 hour or less**

**SUBJECT: Consumer Information**

This is an activity that will familiarize youth with kids.gov, the FirstGov for Kids website. Kids.gov provides links to Federal kids’ sites along with some of the best kids’ sites from other organizations—all grouped by subject. Students will use the worksheet provided to search for answers on kids.gov. This fun and dynamic activity will provide young consumers with information and skills that will be beneficial for the rest of their lives.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

### **Short Term**

- To develop an awareness of kids.gov and its usefulness.
- To improve Internet search skills.

### **Long Term**

- To build student confidence by empowering them with search skills and a central portal to the Federal government.

## **MATERIALS:**

Access to the Internet to search [www.kids.gov](http://www.kids.gov) and a copy of the activity worksheet.

## **PROCEDURES:**

### **Individual—**

Give each student an activity sheet and have him or her answer the ten questions, by using [www.kids.gov](http://www.kids.gov) (the instructions are also given on the activity page). Questions include multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank and question/answer. Most questions can be answered within three clicks from the homepage.

### **Group—**

Let kids form their own small group, or assign them into groups. Give each group the activity sheet and ask them to work together to answer the ten questions.

## ANSWERS:

1. Your best friend has asthma and your class is planning your annual picnic. You want to check the air quality to see if your friend needs to bring an extra inhaler. What federal agency provides citizens with information about the Air Quality Index?

The answer is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Click "Health" or "Science and Math." Then click on "Air Quality Index." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's symbol is in the upper left corner of the page.

2. The Disaster Area is:

The answer is "c"—a section of the FEMA for Kids web site that helps teach kids how they can prevent disaster damage. Click on "Safety" or "Science and Math." Then click "FEMA for Kids"—the homepage has a link to The Disaster Area's main web page.

3. True or False: Helen Herron Taft was the First Lady in 1896.

The answer is false. Click on "Government" or "History." Then click "First Ladies of the United States"—H. H. Taft was the First Lady from 1909 to 1913.

4. Everyone keeps asking you what you are going to "be" when you grow up. You have decided to hunt for a thrilling job so you will have a cool answer ready for the next time. The BLS tells about jobs for kids who like music/arts, science, physical education/outdoors, social studies, reading and math. What does BLS stand for?

The answer is U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Click on "Careers." Then click on "BLS Career Information" or read the description of the link. If you click on the BLS link, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is listed at the bottom of the page.

5. Enacting a Law requires a lot of time and effort by many government leaders. Under the Constitution, how long does the President have to approve or veto a bill after it has been presented?

The answer is "b"—10 days excluding Sundays. Click on "History" or "Government." Then click on "Enactment of a Law." Click on "Presidential Action—Approval or Veto." The first sentence states, "10 days (Sundays excepted)."

6. True or False: The Federal Aviation Administration provides citizens with information about obtaining passports.

The answer is "false."—it is the U.S. Department of State. Click on "Transportation." Then click on "Passport Services and Information." The passport services and information page is maintained by the U.S. Department of State.

7. The Federal Bureau of Investigation lists several Internet safety tips for kids. List one tip.

There are five tips on the FBI page that the kids can choose. Click on "Computers," "Fighting Crime" or "Safety." Then click on "FBI Kids Page—Internet Safety." The page lists five Internet safety tips from which the kids can choose.

8. Your class is taking a trip to a butterfly house. As part of the trip, each student has to research one butterfly fact. Luckily for you, the FirstGov for Kids website links to the Children's Butterfly Site, which is on the U.S. Geological Survey's site. Your fact is, how many kinds of butterflies are there?

The answer is "c"—12,000-15,000. Click on "Plants & Animals." Then click on "Children's Butterfly Site." Click on "FAQ" that is on the index list on the right side of the page. Click on the question, "How many butterflies and moths are there?"

9. Fill in the blanks: Paper currency is printed at the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Coins are minted at the \_\_\_\_\_.

Paper currency is printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Coins are minted at the U.S. Mint.

10. How many National Parks are there in the United States?

The answer is 37. Click on "Geography" or "Recreation." Then click on "GoZone." The page lists the 37 national parks from the Department of Interior's National Park Service.

### ***EVALUATION:***

Grade—

Each answer is worth 10 points.

Non grade—

Use this worksheet as a discussion tool. For example, some kids may have found the answer to question number one under "Health" and others may have found it under "Science and Math." Take this opportunity to point out that sometimes information can be found many different ways.

Fall 2002

For additional information, please e-mail [catalog.pueblo@gsa.gov](mailto:catalog.pueblo@gsa.gov) and write "FirstGov for Kids" in the subject line.